

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-154 (Cancelled)

155. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting media, comprising the steps of:
storing ~~in a memory~~ data describing available media and storing data representing characteristics of media previously selected by a user, wherein said data representing characteristics are not generated by the user;

performing a search of said available media for a correspondence to data representing said characteristics of media previously selected by said user; and

notifying said user of available media having characteristics ~~similar~~ corresponding to characteristics of previously selected media.

156. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 155 wherein said media comprises television programs and said data describing available media comprises a channel guide list, ~~and television program descriptive text accompanies said channel guide list, includes the further step of:~~

~~performing a search of said television program descriptive text for a particular text string which relates to at least one of title, star, or context of said television program.~~

157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155, wherein said step of notifying said user includes the step of producing a display including a list of the available media meeting a predetermined correspondence criteria on a display screen for viewing by the user.

158. (Original) The method of claim 157, further comprising a step of altering the produced display by a user using a data entry device.

159. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 158, further comprising the step of selecting one of the available media items displayed on the list of available media.

160. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 155, wherein said specific data representing said characteristics of television programs previously watched by said user includes ~~at least one of topic, title, date and~~ theme information.

161. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155, further comprising the step of displaying a list of available television programs, and receiving an input for recording a selected one of the available television programs.

162. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a controller for controlling delivery of media to a user;
~~at least one memory for storing a media guide comprising a data representing~~
~~characteristics of media within a set of available media, and data representing characteristics of~~
~~media previously presented to the user; and~~
a processor for determining a correspondence between data representing characteristics of media within a set of available media in said media guide with data representing characteristics of media previously presented to the user, wherein said data representing characteristics are not generated by the user, and producing a signal dependent on said correspondence.

163. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 162, wherein said signal controls a recording of a program.

~~165~~ 164. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein said signal produces a list of choices for a user through a human user interface.

~~166~~ 165. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein a user interaction with said system serves as an input to an adaptive algorithm of said processor for determining said correspondence.

~~167~~ 166. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein said at least one memory further stores information regarding at least two humans, wherein said signal is dependent on a defined set of humans.

~~168~~ 167. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein said ~~processor controls delivery~~ a presentation of media is restricted in dependence on a financial transaction.

~~169~~ 168. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting media items, comprising:

- (a) a user interface for receiving a selection of a media item from a user and for delivering a response to the selection;
- (b) ~~a database for storing media items and characteristics thereof available for selection, and a history of selections made by the user;~~

(e) a processor for searching ~~available~~ media items available for selection in the database and for presenting a recommendation of at least one available media item to the user, based on a correspondence of said selection and characteristics of available media items ~~in said database~~ generated independently of the user; and

~~(d)~~ (c) an accounting database for recording commercial transaction data relating to selections made by the user.

~~170~~ 169. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~169~~ 168, wherein said media items comprise television programs and said stored characteristics comprise a channel guide list, and television program-descriptive text accompanies said channel guide list.

~~171~~ 170. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~169~~ 168, wherein said recommendation presented by said processor produces a display including a list of the available media meeting a predetermined correspondence criteria on a display screen for viewing by the user.

~~172~~ 171. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~169~~ 168, wherein said characteristics comprise an identification of a program type.

~~173~~ 172. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~169~~ 168, wherein said processor controls a recording of a said media item.

~~174~~ 173. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~169~~ 168, wherein said database stores a history of selections made by a plurality of users.

174. (New) The method according to claim 155, further comprising the step of receiving media programming information as the data representing characteristics of media.

175. (New) The method according to claim 155, further comprising the step of automatically generating data representing characteristics of media.

176. (New) The method according to claim 155, wherein the data representing characteristics comprises a description of media.

177. (New) A method for proposing media, comprising the steps of:
storing data representing characteristics of media previously selected by a respective user, wherein the data representing characteristics of media previously selected by the respective user are not generated by that user;

determining a set of available media, the set being associated with data representing characteristics of members of the set of available media;

determining a correspondence between data representing a member of the set of available media and data representing the characteristics of media previously selected by the user; and

outputting, for the user, an identification of at least one member of the set of available media having characteristics corresponding to characteristics of previously selected media by that user.

178. (New) The method according to claim 177, wherein the identification of at least one member of the set of available media having characteristics corresponding to characteristics of previously selected media by that user is presented as a selectable object in a graphic user interface.

179. (New) A method for presenting media, comprising the steps of:

- storing data representing at least one parameter relating prior selections by a respective user, the at least one parameter not being generated by that respective user;
- determining a set of available media, each member of the set having at least one associated parameter;
- determining a degree of correspondence of prior selections by the respective user and members of the set of available media based on at least the parameters relating to prior selections by the respective user and the associated parameters of members of the set of available media;
- and
- outputting a reference to at least one member of the set of available media having an associated parameter based on at least a correspondence to the at least one parameter relating to prior selections by the respective user.

180. (New) The method according to claim 179, wherein the reference comprises an object in a graphic user interface.

181. (New) The method according to claim 179, wherein the reference comprises a selectable object in a graphic user interface.

182. (New) A method for proposing media, comprising the steps of:

- storing data representing content-related characteristics of media previously selected by a respective user;
- determining a set of available media, the set being associated with data representing content-related characteristics of members of the set of available media;
- determining a correspondence between content-related characteristics of available media and content-related characteristics of media previously selected by the user; and
- outputting, for the user, an identification of at least one member of the set of available media having content-related characteristics corresponding to content-related characteristics of previously selected media by that user.